

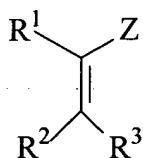
(i) a compound producing imagewise a chemical species that can form development initiation points on and in the vicinity of the non-photosensitive silver salt of an organic acid (except for hydrazine derivatives);

(ii) a compound that provides increase of developed silver grain density to a level of 200-5000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver (except for hydrazine derivatives);

(iii) a compound that provides increase of covering power to a level of 120-1000% when it is added in an amount of 0.01 mol/mol of silver (except for hydrazine derivatives);

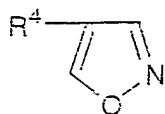
(iv) a compound represented by any one of the following formulas (1) to (3):

Formula (1)



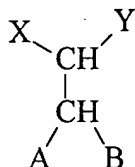
wherein, R^1 , R^2 and R^3 each independently represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent, Z represents an electron-withdrawing group, and R^1 and Z, R^2 and R^3 , R^1 and R^2 , or R^3 and Z may be combined with each other to form a ring structure,

Formula (2)



wherein, R^4 represents a substituent,

Formula (3)



wherein, X and Y each independently represent a hydrogen atom or a substituent, A and B each independently represents an alkoxy group, an alkylthio group, an alkylamino group, an aryloxy group, an arylthio group, an anilino group, a heterocyclyloxy group, a heterocyclylthio group or a heterocyclylamino group, and X and Y or A and B may be combined with each other to form a ring structure.